

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Kazakh SSR)	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	The Alma Ata Airfield and Military Activity in the Area 25X1A	DATE DISTR.	12 March 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCES	

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. There was a military and commercial airfield north-northeast of Alma Ata (42-21N, 76-56E) and 100 meters west of the Alma Ata-Ili (43-51N, 77-11E) highway. The southern edge of the airfield was about five km from the branch-off point east of the Alma Ata I railroad station. The single-track railroad line to Ili ran about 500 meters east of the field and intersected the Alma Ata-Ili highway 300 to 400 meters northeast of the field. The landing field was about 1,500 meters long from north to south and 800 meters wide from east to west. It had a light steppe-grass cover and the ground was solid sand. No runways, taxiways, or hangars existed. Three to four four-story buildings quartered air force personnel and their dependents. Small wooden sheds in the southeastern corner of the field apparently housed workshops.
2. In the summer and fall of 1948 and from April to October 1949, source observed individual parachuting from twin-engine aircraft twice a week in fair weather. The jumps were made from an altitude of from 500 to 800 meters. Every two or three weeks' groups of up to 17 men would jump in rapid succession from one plane. Up to 10 planes arriving at intervals of about 20 minutes were involved in these exercises. A short time after the parachutists had jumped, rifle and machine gun fire was heard from the drop area. The jumps were made two or three km southeast of the airfield.
3. The Alma Ata military airfield was located three or four km north of the Alma Ata I railroad station, about 100 meters west of the highway to Ili, and 400 meters west of the railroad line to Ili. A large U-shaped parachute

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troops barracks installation was nearing completion in the northeastern corner of the field, which measured about 1,000 x 600 meters. No runways, taxiways, or hangars were observed. Three or four multi-story buildings, apparently billets, stood at the eastern edge of the installation.

4. Only a few single-engine and twin-engine planes and one glider were stationed at the field. Individual and group parachuting with subsequent combat training was given in an area northwest of the field. There allegedly was a civilian airfield about three km east of the Alma Ata I railroad station. Operating searchlights were occasionally seen in the direction of the civilian airfield.

25X1A [] Comment. This information, although old, is forwarded because it may make it possible to pin-point the military airfield north of Alma Ata.

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